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Orders have been given to the Press for the issue of the following publications:—

(1) Despatches from England, 1686–1692.

(2) Do. 1721–1724.

The Curator is allowed to undertake special research work only if it does not interfere with his legitimate duties.

(b) Yes.

Appointment of a person with knowledge of Persian and Arabic in the Madras Record office.

*329 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any post reserved in the Madras Record office for the appointment of a person knowing Persian, Arabic and Urdu;

(b) if so, when the post fell vacant for the last occasion and who, if any, has been appointed for the post and what are his qualifications; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Strength of the Muslims in the Madras Record office.

*330 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what is the strength of Muslims employed in the Madras Record office ever since 1st of January 1916 up to date; and

(b) what was the strength prior to the abovesaid date?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement [a] showing the number of Muhammadans holding permanent appointments in the Madras Record office on 31st December 1915 and on the 1st of January in each of the subsequent years is laid on the table.

Transcription and publication of old manuscripts in Urdu and Arabic languages.

*331 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the number and the nature of old manuscripts in the Persian, Urdu and Arabic languages hitherto transcribed and published by the Madras Record office?

A.—The Persian records in the Madras Record office have not been transcribed and published. There are no Urdu or Arabic records in the Madras Record office.

Stamps

Reduction of court-fees and stamps.

*332 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to bring in amending legislation to reduce court-fees and stamps in accordance with the wishes of the legislature;

(b) if so, when and on what lines; and

(c) if not, why not?

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[a] Printed as Appendix X on page 587 infra.

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A.—(*a*) So far as the stamps are concerned, the answer is in the negative.
(*b*) This does not arise.
(*c*) Because this question has not been fully considered by the Finance Committee.
As regards court-fees, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 245.

Reduction of the rates of judicial and non-judicial stamp fees.

* 333 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what conclusion the Finance Committee and Government have arrived at on the question of the proposed reduction of the rates of judicial and non-judicial stamp fees ; and

(*b*) if they have decided to make such reduction when the necessary legislation will be brought ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 332.

State Prisoners

Release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon.

* 334 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has examined the case for the release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon after he took office ;

(*b*) whether he has changed his opinion on the question and if so why ; and

(*c*) if not, when he proposes to release Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon ?

A.—(*a*) Not yet.
(*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.
(*c*) The time of his release depends on the decision of the Government.

Local Boards

Nomination of defeated candidates to Hosur Taluk Board.

* 335 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number and names of the defeated candidates who were nominated to the Taluk Board of Hosur ;

(*b*) the action taken by the Government to see that the popular will as recorded by ballot was not defeated ; and

(*c*) the names of other boards to which defeated candidates were similarly nominated ?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The Government have no information, but will inquire of the President, District Board, Salem.
(*b*) Under section 9 (4) (*b*) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the nomination of members of taluk boards vests in presidents of district boards and the Government have no jurisdiction in the matter.